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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003
INTRODUCED BY
Cisco McSorely

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT TO
INSTITUTE A MORATORIUM ON ADDITIONAL JUVENILE CORRECTIONS
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY, REDUCE THE NUMBER OF YOUTHS IN
CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AND REDIRECT FUNDS FROM INSTITUTIONAL
TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE.

WHEREAS, within the last five years, a fifty-bed juvenile
correctional facility was constructed in Dona Ana county, and a
one-hundred-bed juvenile correctional facility was constructed
in Albuquerque to serve very troubled and aggressive youth; and

WHEREAS, within the last two years, the children, youth
and families department has closed two reintegration facilities
for troubled youths; and

WHEREAS, those measures suggest that New Mexico has
adequate inpatient capacity to serve the most troubled and

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1 unstable youths in need of services; and

2 WHEREAS, the incidence of delinquency among youths has
3 been reduced both nationally and in New Mexico for the last
4 five years; and

5 WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that children who do not
6 pose a threat to themselves or society can be best served in
7 community-based programs and facilities; and

8 WHEREAS, the New Mexico boys' school at Springer has a
9 long and problematic history in hiring and retaining
10 professional and other qualified staff to properly care for the
11 boys at the facility; and

12 WHEREAS, the result of professional staff shortages is a
13 non-therapeutic and unsafe environment for the boys;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the children, youth and families
16 department be requested to impose a moratorium on additional
17 juvenile correctional institutional capacity and redirect funds
18 from institutional to community-based care; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department seek to reduce
20 the number of children in correctional facilities and emphasize
21 community-based, positive youth development, prevention,
22 diversion and rehabilitation efforts; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the general services
24 department be requested to conduct a study and make
25 recommendations on alternative use for the New Mexico boys'

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1 school in Springer; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the children, youth and
3 families department and the general services department make a
4 report to the interim legislative health and human services
5 committee at its September 2003 meeting; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the children, youth and families department, the
8 general services department, various statewide organizations
9 involved in advocacy for children and the interim legislative
10 health and human services committee.